REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 17, 2011. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13, and 14 are presented for examination, of which Claims 2, 11, 13, and 14 are in independent form. Claims 1, 10, 12, 15 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended to define aspects of what Applicants regard as their invention more clearly. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in FIGS. 5A-5C, 9, 10A-10C, 11, in the descriptions thereof in the specification, and in paragraphs [0111] and [0077] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0206592, which corresponds to the present application.[1] Favorable consideration is requested.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0102192 (*Serceki*); rejects Claims 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by a document titled "The Windows XP Wireless Zero Configuration Service" (*Zero*); and rejects Claim 4 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Serceki* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,522 (*Ito et al.*). Cancellation of Claims 1, 10, 12, 15 and 16 renders their rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that independent Claims 2, 11, 13, and 14, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Independent Claims 2 and 13

Claim 2 is directed to a wireless communication device that includes a network detection unit, a network connection unit, a printer searching unit, and a printer connection unit.

[1] Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

The network detection unit is adapted to detect a plurality of wireless networks. The network connection unit connects to a wireless network detected by the network detection unit. The printer searching unit searches within the wireless network connected to by the network connection unit for one or more printers having a predetermined print function. Every time the printer search unit detects a printer having the predetermined print function, the display unit selectably displays information associated that printer. When an operator selects a printer associated with information displayed by the display unit, the printer connection unit terminates searching by the printer search unit and connects to the selected printer.

Serceki is understood to relate to a software tool that runs on a computer with wireless communication capabilities (*see* paragraph 4). In *Serceki*, a wireless local area network (WLAN) monitoring application can scan through all possible channels, display information indicating an activity level on each channel, and permit a user to select a channel having an access point with which to associate (*see* paragraph 11). The activity level can be measured in terms of a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and the WLAN monitoring application can display a SNR level for each channel, which permits the user to determine channels that have operating access points and a relative signal strength associated with each access point (*see* paragraph 11).

The WLAN monitoring application disclosed by *Serceki* is not understood to stop scanning through the channels when an access point is found. Additionally, the WLAN monitoring application is not understood to search within a wireless network for a printer having a predetermined print function.

In summary, nothing has been found in *Serceki* that is believed to teach or suggest a wireless communication device that includes "a printer searching unit adapted to search for one or more printers having a predetermined print function within the wireless network connected to

by the network connection unit," and "a printer connection unit adapted to, when an operator selects a printer associated with the information displayed by the display unit, terminate searching by the printer search unit and connect to the selected printer," as recited in Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 2 is not anticipated by *Serceki*, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

A review of the other cited art, including *Zero* and *Ito et al.*, has failed to reveal anything that is believed to remedy the deficiencies of *Serceki* identified above. Accordingly, Claim 11 is believed to be patentable over the cited art, whether considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claim 13 includes features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 2 that Claim 13 is believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. The rejected dependent claims in the present application depend from Claim 2 and are submitted to be patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 11 and 14

Claim 11 is directed to a wireless communication device that includes a beacon detection unit, a searching unit, and a display unit. The beacon detection unit detects a beacon signal. The searching unit searches for a printer having a predetermined print function. When the detected beacon signal is sent by a wireless communication device in an ad hoc mode, the searching unit transmits a search signal for searching for the printer having the predetermined print function to the wireless communication device that sent the detected beacon signal. When

the detected beacon signal is sent by an access point in an infrastructure mode, the searching unit transmits the search signal to an infrastructure network through the access point. The display unit selectably displays information associated with a printer that responded to the search signal.

Zero is understood to relate to a Wireless Zero Configuration Service for a computer running the Windows XP operating system (*see* Title). In *Zero*, device identification information of access points that provide wireless networks is gathered and displayed. The Wireless Zero Configuration Service is not understood to search for a printer having a predetermined print function. Additionally, the Wireless Zero Configuration Service is not understood to distinguish a beacon signal sent by an access point in an infrastructure mode from a beacon signal sent by a wireless communication device in an ad hoc mode.

In summary, nothing has been found in *Zero* that is believed to teach or suggest a wireless communication device that includes "a searching unit adapted to search for a printer having a predetermined print function, wherein, when the detected beacon signal is sent by a wireless communication device in an ad hoc mode, the searching unit transmits a search signal for searching for the printer having the predetermined print function to the wireless communication device that sent the detected beacon signal, and, when the detected beacon signal is sent by an access point in an infrastructure mode, the searching unit transmits the search signal to an infrastructure network through the access point," and "a display unit adapted to selectably display information associated with a printer that responded to the search signal," as recited in Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is not anticipated by *Zero*, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is respectfully requested.

A review of the other cited art, including *Serceki* and *Ito et al.*, has failed to reveal anything that is believed to remedy the deficiencies of *Zero* identified above. Accordingly,

Claim 11 is believed to be patentable over the cited art, whether considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claim 14 includes features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 11 that Claim 13 is believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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